concerns. One of the most serious is the global extinction of plants and animals. Every year, hundreds of thousands of species are lost, never to reappear. Most of them disappear without ever being seen by humans, their beauty and potential value left unexplored.
In this course we will explore the causes for this crisis, and why it is in the best interest of the human race to protect the world's biological diversity. We will go beyond simply cataloging the species that are disappearing or have been lost, and focus on what conservation and protection strategies have already been successfuly developed. Our attention will range widely—from tropical Latin America and Africa to the world's polar regions. We will also go on field trips to visit some of the conservation areas in Vermont to see firsthand what it takes to protect our natural heritage.

Steve Trombulak is Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Program in Environmental Studies. His research focuses on issues of conservation of threatened and endangered species, and the ecology of vertebrates. He teaches a wide variety of courses, including natural history, environmental policy formation, evolution, anatomy, and an introduction to environmental issues. He has written several articles on the ecology and natural history of vertebrates of both the U.S. and Costa Rica. He is the Academic Coordinator for the Consortium for the Study of Sustainable Development, which offers a semester-long course on environmental protection in Costa Rica.

The cost, covering 12 meals, four nights of lodging, tuition and books is $375/person, or $700/couple, payable upon registration. The cost for younger alumni ('76-'90) is $350/person or $650/couple.

Classes will be held at the Bread Loaf Campus where participants will be housed and meals served.

Opportunities for tennis, swimming, hiking, etc., will be offered at Bread Loaf. The College Golf Course is also available (greens fees are reasonable).

If you wish to attend Alumni College, please complete the reservation form below and return it with full payment by August 10.

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Alumni College XVI

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, 1991

BREAD LOAF CAMPUS
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1. The Poet's 'I': Poet and Autobiography

In this seminar, we will work together to discover subtle and various connections between the so-called "objective" events of a poet's life and the poems that he or she produced. Emily Dickinson, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and Elizabeth Bishop are known as reticent, self-concealing poets; nonetheless their poems tell their life stories, especially the stories of their becoming poets. To discover some of these stories, we will read poems by each poet and will read letters, diaries, drafts of poems, and autobiographical prose by each, as they are available. In this way, we'll be able to look generally at how these poets managed to write the poems they did, and also at how life experience differs from poetic experience.

Brett Candlish Millier is an Assistant Professor of American Literature at Middlebury. She received her B.A. in American Studies from Yale University, and her Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Stanford. She is currently at work on a biography of Elizabeth Bishop.

2. The USSR: A Crisis of Union

In 1991, all of the 15 Soviet republics, and many other administrative entities issued some form of sovereignty declaration. Many questions immediately come to mind: What do these declarations of sovereignty mean? Why have they occurred? Can President Gorbachov's proposal for a new federation satisfy the desires of the republics and reconstruct the "union"? Will perestroika allow those republics that seek full independence to do so? Will the central government need to reestablish its dominance over the republics in order to maintain the integrity of the state? What are some of the economic and political implications of the changing relationship between Moscow and the individual republics? How do the independence movements and demands differ across Soviet republics and regions?
This course will look at the current "crisis of union" and consider many of the questions posed above. We will read both western and Soviet materials (translated) to gain an understanding of what some see as the inevitable breakup of the union.

Ronald D. Liebowitz, Associate Professor of Geography, joined the Middlebury faculty in 1984. He was an IREX scholar in Prague in 1986, and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow this past year, doing research on economic relations between Moscow and the Soviet republics. He is the editor of *Gorbachov's New Thinking* (Ballinger, 1988) and (with Michael Kraus of the political science department) *Perestroika and East-West Economic Relations: Prospects for the 1990s* (NYU Press, 1990).

3. Vermont Folklife: An Exploration of Vermont's Traditional Arts and Folk Ways

Jane Beck, Director of the Vermont Folklife Center, and members of the Center's staff will present Vermont Folklife: An Exploration of Vermont's Traditional Arts and Folk Ways. The course will address such topics as what is meant by "folklife," fieldwork and collecting, the evolution of the family farm, the general store and humor, the Vermont Yankee and other ethnic groups, the traditions and legends of Lake Champlain, and Vermont folk art. An afternoon in the field will help to illustrate through first-hand experience the material presented in class.

Jane C. Beck '63 served as the State Folklorist at the Vermont Council on the Arts for 9 years. She received her M.A. and Ph.D. in Folklore at the University of Pennsylvania in 1969 and she has done fieldwork, written, and lectured extensively on the British Isles, Ireland, the Lesser Antilles and the Kingdom of Tonga, as well as Vermont. In 1988 when the Vermont Folklife Center was established at the Painter House in Middlebury, she became its Executive Director.

4. A Day in the Country: Monet and French Impressionism

"We're having marvellous weather and I wish I could send you a little of the sunshine. I am slaving away on six paintings a day. I'm giving myself a hard time over it as I haven't managed to capture the color of this landscape; there are moments when I'm appalled at the colors I'm having to use, I'm afraid what I'm doing is just dreadful and yet I really am understanding it; the light is simply terrifying." Thus Monet wrote to Alice Hoschede in 1884, describing his intimate engagement with the natural world that he sought to record with his brush on canvas. His efforts to capture his impressions of the world around him resulted in some of the best-loved paintings of the history of art.
This course will examine the French Impressionist movement, primarily, although not exclusively, through the art of Claude Monet. We will begin by exploring the roots of Impressionism in French Realist art and then move to the Impressionist exhibitions of the 1870s and 1880s. Then we will shift our attention to Monet's later works, done at his home in Giverny. We will attempt to place Impressionist subjects against the backdrop of later nineteenth-century French society by considering parallel developments in music and literature, and by exploring the significance of certain themes in light of the social realities they may reflect. The course will culminate in a field trip to the Clark Art Institute to view one of New England's finest collections of nineteenth-century paintings.

Kirsten Powell, Associate Professor of Art History, joined the Middlebury faculty in 1983. A former Fulbright scholar, her research has focused on issues in nineteenth and twentieth-century painting and prints. In addition to publications on nineteenth-century French book illustration, Pre-Raphaelite art, as well as articles on paintings by Pablo Picasso and Willem de Kooning, she was co-curator and catalogue editor for the exhibition "Femmes d'esprit: Women in Daumier's Caricature," shown last year at Middlebury's Johnson Gallery and at the Neuberger Museum. She has previously taught an Alumni College course on Picasso and she accompanied the alumni excursion, Barging in Burgundy.

5. Conservation of Biological Diversity

The newspapers are filled with stories about the world's pressing environmental